

TASK: Read the target words. Practice using them by means of the exercises presented here.

LESSON

8

Energy

Target Words

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. combustion | 6. permeate |
| 2. component | 7. rotate |
| 3. convey | 8. solar |
| 4. discretely | 9. source |
| 5. nucleus | 10. trigger |

Definitions and Samples

1. **combustion** *n.* The process of burning

When air quality is poor, **combustion** of materials in a fireplace is prohibited.

Usage tips *Combustion* is often followed by *of*.

Parts of speech combust *v.*, combustible *adj.*

2. **component** *n.* One part of a system or whole

Their home theater system has a number of separate **components**.

Usage tips *Component* is often followed or preceded by *of*.

3. **convey** *v.* To transport from one place to another; to transmit or make known

A messenger **conveyed** the prince's letter to the commander of the army.

The worst part about being a doctor was when she had to convey bad news to a family.

Parts of speech conveyance *n.*, conveyor *n.*

4. **discretely** *adv.* Separately; distinctly

In order to understand how the engine worked, each component needed to be studied **discretely**.

Parts of speech discrete *adj.*

5. **nucleus** *n.* A central or essential part around which other parts are gathered; a core

The **nucleus** of many European cities is the town square.

Usage tips *Nucleus* is often followed by *of*.

Parts of speech nuclear *adj*

6. **permeate** *v.* To spread or flow throughout; to pass through or penetrate

The smell of cooking **permeated** the entire apartment building.

Parts of speech permeation *n*

7. **rotate** *v.* To turn around; to take turns in sequence

The planet **rotates** on its axis once every 14 Earth days.

The children **rotate** classroom responsibilities on a weekly basis.

Parts of speech rotation *n*

8. **solar** *adj.* Of, or relating to, the sun

The ancient society kept time with a **solar** calendar.

9. **source** *n.* The point of origin or creation

The reporter was unable to identify the **source** of the information for his story.

Parts of speech source *v*

10. **trigger** *v.* To set off or initiate

I was certain any mention of politics would **trigger** a big argument.

Parts of speech trigger *n*

TOEFL Prep I Complete each sentence by filling in the blank with the best word from the list. Change the form of the word if necessary. Use each word only once.

combustion *convey* *permeate* *source* *trigger*

1. It is often difficult to _____ the meaning of a poem to a large audience.
2. The _____ of the gossip was someone inside this office.
3. Her bad mood that day _____ the atmosphere in the laboratory.
4. The internal _____ engine revolutionized the way automobiles run.
5. A cigarette _____ the explosion.

TOEFL Prep II Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. rotate | (a) separately, as an individual part |
| _____ 2. solar | (b) spin on an axis |
| _____ 3. component | (c) sun |
| _____ 4. discretely | (d) center |
| _____ 5. nucleus | (e) part |

TOEFL Success Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the questions that follow.

Most of the electricity in the United States is produced in steam turbines. There are many *discrete* steps in this process. In a steam turbine,

combustion of coal, petroleum, or natural gas heats water to make steam. The steam *rotates* a shaft that is connected to a generator that produces electricity. Finally, that electricity is converted by a transformer and *conveyed* from the turbine to its place of use. Many *sources* can provide energy to heat the water in a steam turbine. Coal is primary, producing 51 percent of the country's electricity. Another common way to heat water for steam turbines is through *nuclear* power. In nuclear fission, atoms of uranium fuel are hit by neutrons, *triggering* a continuous chain of fission that releases heat. In 2001, nuclear power generated 21 percent of the electricity in the United States. *Solar* power produces less than 1 percent

Bonus Structure—
In this context, **still**
means "even so;
despite this."

of the United States' electricity needs, because it is not regularly available and harnessing it is more expensive than using fossil fuels. Dependence on electricity *permeates* daily life in the United States. **Still**, few people are aware of the many *components* of electricity production.

1. What does the author say about solar power?
 - a. It produces more electricity than any other source.
 - b. It is a relatively small source of energy for heating water in steam turbines.
 - c. Electricity producers are trying to use it more regularly.
 - d. Researchers are trying to make it cheaper to use.
2. In the passage, the word transformer probably refers to a
 - a. truck
 - b. generator that produces electricity
 - c. type of turbine
 - d. device that changes electric currents

LESSON

9

Memory

Target Words

1. acquisition
2. anomaly
3. consciously
4. degrade
5. gap
6. indisputable
7. intervene
8. intuitively
9. recede
10. retrieve

Definitions and Samples

1. **acquisition** *n.* The act of taking possession of something

Our recent **acquisition** of over 2,000 books makes ours the biggest library in the region.

Usage tips *Acquisition* is often followed by *of*.

Parts of speech acquire *v*

2. **anomaly** *n.* Something unusual

White tigers get their beautiful coloring from a genetic **anomaly**.

3. **consciously** *adv.* With awareness of one's actions

He may have hurt her feelings, but he never would have done so **consciously**.

Parts of speech consciousness *n*, conscious *adj*

4. **degrade** *v.* To reduce in value or strength

The roads in cold or wet areas of the United States **degrade** faster than those in warm, sunny regions.

Parts of speech degradation *n*, degradable *adj*

5. **gap** *n.* Opening; a big difference in amount or quality

The small **gap** between the walls in the old house caused cold drafts to come in.

6. **indisputable** *adj.* Beyond doubt; unquestionable

The members of the jury found her guilty because they found the facts of the case **indisputable**.

Parts of speech indisputably *adv*

7. **intervene** *v.* To come between

A good mediator **intervenes** only as much as necessary to settle a dispute between other parties.

Parts of speech intervention *n*

8. **intuitively** *adv.* By means of a natural sense about things that are hard to observe

Many mothers know **intuitively** when something is wrong with their children.

Parts of speech intuition *n*, intuitive *adj*

9. **recede** *v.* To move back or away from

After the age of 30, his hairline began to **recede** further back from his forehead.

Parts of speech recession *n*, recessive *adj*

10. **retrieve** *v.* To bring or get back

Most dogs can be trained to **retrieve** objects that their owners have thrown.

TOEFL Prep I Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ 1. degrade | (a) stay out of a dispute |
| _____ 2. anomaly | (b) improve |
| _____ 3. recede | (c) questionable |
| _____ 4. intervene | (d) the norm |
| _____ 5. indisputable | (e) come forward |

TOEFL Prep II Circle the word that best completes each sentence.

1. A huge (anomaly / gap) between the wealthy and the working class often leads to social unrest.
2. The new computers enable us to (intervene / retrieve) information more quickly.
3. Although she wasn't qualified for the job, she (indisputably / intuitively) felt that she should apply.
4. When he joined the military, he did not expect the officers to (degrade / recede) him.
5. The art in the foyer was an important (acquisition / consciousness) for the museum.

TOEFL Success Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the question that follows.

Like other functions of the human mind, perception and memory are imperfect. When we tell a story about something that we witnessed, we may *intuitively* believe that our recollection is accurate. However, several factors bias our memories of events. To study this *anomaly*, let us look at the three steps of memory creation: *acquisition* of memory, storing of memory, and *retrieval*. At every stage of memory formation, distortion can occur. At the first stage, acquisition of memory, events are perceived and bits of information are prepared for storage in the brain. However, it is impossible for us to remember every single thing we observe. Through processes that are both *conscious* and unconscious, people determine which details they will focus on.

In its second stage, storage, memories can become further distorted. Over time, our memories *degrade*, as we forget portions of events. To compensate, we may even creatively fill in the *gap* created by the *recession* of long-term memory. Additionally, an individual's memory can be altered during the storage stage by *intervening* occurrences, which can

Bonus Structure—
In sum means "to summarize; to give a short version of what has been stated."

be subconsciously combined with previously stored memories. Last but not least, we search our memory to locate information. During recall, emotion also seems to play a part in memory distortion. In sum, our memories may not be the *indisputable* source of information that we would like them to be.

An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the three answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. In each blank, write the letter of one of your choices.

Memory provides an imperfect record of events.
•
•
•

- a. People purposefully present a slanted version of events.
- b. Memories can be altered at any point in memory creation.
- c. People naturally cannot recall everything they observe.
- d. Memories are an indisputable source of fact.
- e. Time and emotion contribute to memory degradation.
- f. Past occurrences often displace current memories.